

A visit with Eddy Ramos

People - Ramos

By SARAH COUGHLIN, CLIPPER CONTRIBUTOR

Eddy Ramos has been Duxbury's Animal Control Officer for the past five and a half years. An animal lover at heart, Ramos was fortunate to find an opportunity in Duxbury where he is in good company. We recently caught up with him to find out what's going on with all the animals in town.

What does a typical day consist of? Well, it changes day to day. First off, I take care of the shelter. I take calls about strays, injured wildlife, wildlife in people's homes. The day can vary so much it's outrageous.

DUXBURY ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER

Favorite Book: The Hunt for Red October

Favorite Movie: The Green Mile

Person He Most Admires: His Dad

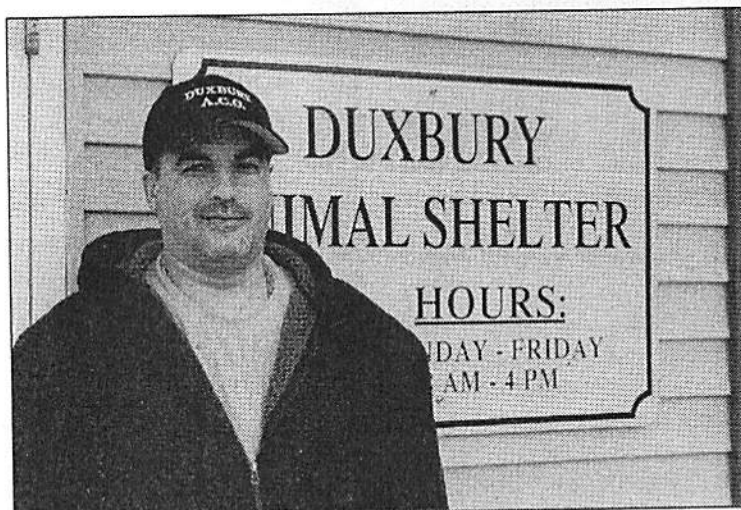
Favorite Hobby: Poker

Pet Peeve: People with no common sense

How many people work in the shelter? It's just me and about three or four solid volunteers, who are all amazing. We couldn't do it without them. We have a very good team.

How did you become the Animal Control Officer? I worked at a humane society in Boston for eight years, doing more technical rescue work as opposed to shelter stuff. I then started at a shelter in Pembroke and while there Duxbury's shelter was being built. I saw an opportunity to build something really great here, something that might make other towns a little jealous.

What is the most unusual animal you've ever dealt with? In Duxbury? Well, I



Animal Control Officer Eddy Ramos is "an animal lover at heart."

found a Tegu Monitor lizard that escaped from someone's home. We actually found the owner by posting a picture in the Clipper. They called in and were reunited with their pet.

What is the most common call? Most of the time people call in about wildlife on their property, such as raccoons or skunks. People call about missing dogs.

What happens to strays whose owners never come for them? We hold them for 14 days, and usually post fliers in neighborhoods and a photo in the Clipper. We've returned a lot of pets to their owners through the Clipper. After 14 days they are given a medical and behavioral check and then placed up for adoption. There's no time period within which they must be adopted. We like to think we're a little different from other shelters that way.

Do people call in with strange problems? We've had ducks in people's fireplaces.

How many animals can the shelter accommodate? No specific number, we figure it out. You have to make do. A lot of it's on-the-fly planning.

What percentage of Duxbury residents own dogs? Cats? There's no record for cats. There are roughly 2,000

licenses for dogs every year, with many unlicensed dogs out there too. People are very into their pets here.

Have you ever been injured or bitten while on the job? (knocks on wood, literally) I've had dogs try to bite me, but it just didn't work out very well for them.

What is the toughest part of your job? Taking time off. I am on call 24 hours a day/7 days a week/ 365 days a year. But, there really is no bad part. I love what I do.

The best part? Helping the animals.

P.S. March 2, 2011 Duxbury Clipper